

So, Mr. Speaker, today I urge all my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment, and let’s get back to the real work of serving the American people with real discussions and real questions that come up at the time when they are relevant.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, let me quote President Ronald Reagan. In his address to the Nation on the fiscal year 1983 Federal budget, he said:

“Only a constitutional amendment will do the job.”

“With the stick of a balanced budget amendment, we can stop government squandering, overtaxing ways, and save our economy.”

A few years, later he said this in his weekly radio address:

“One part of our Founding Fathers’ genius was their provision for amending the Constitution. They knew they had created a good document but not a perfect one. In fact, even two centuries ago, some of them, especially Thomas Jefferson, were troubled by one omission: the lack of a limitation on public borrowing by the Federal Government.”

“Well, even in their reservations about the Constitution, the Founding Fathers were perceptive and wise.

“I think most of you know how badly out of control Federal spending has gotten in recent years;”—I’m quoting President Reagan in 1980—“today the national debt is \$2.25 trillion.”

“... I’m one of those Americans who has always believed that a constitutional amendment mandating that Congress balance the budget is the answer to what ails us.”

That was 30 years ago. Today the national debt is over \$20 trillion, and President Reagan’s words ring 10 times louder as a result.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment and in freeing our children and grandchildren from the burden of a crippling debt they had no hand in creating so they and their own children and generations to come can be free to chart their own futures.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment to the United States Constitution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, here they go again. Republicans are coming to the House floor to decry growing deficits, as if they had nothing to do with them.

Just this week, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reported that the federal deficit is going to double over the next five years—driven by policies passed by a Republican-controlled House and a Republican-controlled Senate and signed into law by a Republican President.

Their hands are stained with red ink.

The fact that these same Republicans are now saying we need a Balanced Budget Amendment to tame our debt is more than a little hard to swallow. In fact, I don’t know how they are not choking on their hypocrisy.

Republicans increased the deficit by \$1.9 trillion to provide huge tax breaks mostly to wealthy individuals and large corporations. Just look at the analysis from the Tax Policy Center, which shows the top one percent—those with income over \$730,000 a year—getting an average tax cut of over \$50,000 in 2018, compared to only \$60 for those at the bottom.

And CBO tells us the deficit will grow even higher if the GOP further extends these tax cuts for the top.

The purpose of today’s activity is not to bring balance to the budget—it is to provide political cover for Republicans. But even they are having trouble pretending to take this bill seriously.

Here’s what Representative MARK MEADOWS, Chairman of the Freedom Caucus, has said about this measure:

There is no one on Capitol Hill, and certainly no one on Main Street, that will take this vote seriously.

Representative JIM JORDAN characterized today’s proceedings by saying:

... we’re going to pound our chest like Tarzan and say we’re for a balanced budget, it’s not going to fool anybody.

And a staffer for the conservative Club for Growth summarized the whole effort as, “Leadership is just trying to check a box here.”

If today’s legislation was only about hiding the real Republican record on rising debt, it would be bad enough. But this measure also paves the way for devastating cuts in critical programs, including Social Security and Medicare.

The Republican balanced budget amendment would prevent Social Security from drawing down savings the program is now accruing in its trust fund to pay promised benefits in the future. This would force cuts in Social Security benefits because all federal expenditures would have to be covered by tax revenues collected during that same year. A similar problem would exist for paying future Medicare benefits out of that program’s trust fund.

Additionally, by requiring a balanced budget every year, regardless of the state of our economy, this legislation would force benefit cuts and tax increases at the worst possible time—potentially turning mild recessions into great depressions. Not only would that be devastating for hard-working families, it also would drive future deficits even higher.

Mr. Speaker, today our Republican colleagues are hoping their concerned words will hide their harmful actions on increasing our nation’s debt. But in doing so, they are only creating more potential harm. We should reject this deceptive and dangerous charade.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Balanced Budget Amendment.

This Monday, we heard that federal deficits are going to be almost \$2 trillion more over the next decade than previously projected. While there is more than one reason for our exploding deficit, the GOP’s tax reform bill increased our deficit by almost 20 percent.

Last fall, I and many of my colleagues voiced our fears that the so-called party of fiscal conservatism was going to try to pay for their tax bill by gutting Medicare and Social Security.

I agree with the amendment’s authors that Congress urgently needs to address our debt.

If Congress advanced a carefully structured balanced budget amendment, with waivers to allow fast action to stabilize the markets in the event of a financial crisis like the one we faced just a few short years ago, and with waivers to allow us to fulfill the promises that we have already made to our country’s senior citizens, I would support it.

But this amendment does not do that. It endangers our long-term prosperity in order to pay short-term lip service to fiscal responsibility.

I do not support potentially pulling the rug out from under Americans counting on their Medicare and Social Security benefits, who have been relying on the promises our government made to them for their whole lives. I do not support action that increases the likelihood that our country will be plunged once again into recession, endangering markets and economies worldwide. And I do not agree that the cost of larger tax breaks for multinational companies or of other fiscal decisions made by Congress should be borne by our country’s elderly and sick.

I ask my colleagues to vote to protect our constituents from an economic crisis that could be far worse than the one we suffered in 2008, and to join me in voting against this amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS of Alabama). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 2.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 12, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I, Norma J. Torres, am submitting my resignation from the House Committee on Natural Resources in compliance with the Rules of the Democratic Caucus. It has been a privilege and honor to have served on this Committee.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

NORMA J. TORRES,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.  
There was no objection.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 5 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Suspending the rules and passing H.J. Res. 2; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

#### PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 233, nays 184, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 138]

YEAS—233

Abraham	Calvert	Duffy
Aderholt	Carter (GA)	Duncan (SC)
Allen	Carter (TX)	Duncan (TN)
Amodei	Chabot	Dunn
Arrington	Cheney	Emmer
Babin	Coffman	Estes (KS)
Bacon	Cole	Faso
Banks (IN)	Collins (GA)	Ferguson
Barletta	Collins (NY)	Fitzpatrick
Barr	Comer	Fleischmann
Barton	Comstock	Flores
Bergman	Conaway	Fortenberry
Bilirakis	Cook	Fox
Bishop (MI)	Cooper	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (UT)	Costa	Gaetz
Black	Costello (PA)	Gallagher
Blackburn	Cramer	Garrett
Blum	Crawford	Gianforte
Bost	Cuellar	Gibbs
Brady (TX)	Culberson	Goodlatte
Brat	Curtis	Gottheimer
Bridenstine	Davidson	Gowdy
Brooks (AL)	Davis, Rodney	Granger
Brooks (IN)	Denham	Graves (GA)
Buchanan	Dent	Graves (LA)
Bucshon	DeSantis	Graves (MO)
Budd	DesJarlais	Griffith
Burgess	Diaz-Balart	Grothman
Byrne	Donovan	Guthrie

Handel	Marshall	Royce (CA)
Harper	Mast	Russell
Harris	McCarthy	Rutherford
Hartzler	McCaul	Sanford
Hensarling	McClintock	Scalise
Herrera Beutler	McHenry	Schweikert
Hice, Jody B.	McKinley	Scott, Austin
Higgins (LA)	McMorris	Sensenbrenner
Hill	Rodgers	Sessions
Holding	McSally	Shimkus
Hollingsworth	Meadows	Shuster
Hudson	Meehan	Sinema
Huizenga	Messer	Smith (MO)
Hultgren	Mitchell	Smith (NE)
Hunter	Moolenaar	Smith (NJ)
Hurd	Mooney (WV)	Smith (TX)
Issa	Mullin	Smucker
Jenkins (KS)	Newhouse	Stefanik
Jenkins (WV)	Noem	Stewart
Johnson (LA)	Norman	Stivers
Johnson (OH)	Nunes	Taylor
Johnson, Sam	Olson	Tenney
Jones	Palazzo	Thompson (PA)
Jordan	Palmer	Thornberry
Joyce (OH)	Paulsen	Trott
Katko	Pearce	Turner
Kelly (MS)	Perry	Upton
Kelly (PA)	Peterson	Valadao
Kind	Pittenger	Wagner
King (IA)	Poe (TX)	Walberg
King (NY)	Poliquin	Walden
Kinzinger	Posey	Walker
Knight	Ratcliffe	Walorski
Kustoff (TN)	Reed	Walters, Mimi
Labrador	Reichert	Weber (TX)
LaHood	Renacci	Webster (FL)
LaMalfa	Roby	Wenstrup
Lamborn	Roe (TN)	Westerman
Lance	Rogers (AL)	Williams
Latta	Rogers (KY)	Wilson (SC)
Lewis (MN)	Rohrabacher	Wittman
LoBiondo	Rokita	Womack
Long	Rooney, Francis	Woodall
Loudermilk	Rooney, Thomas J.	Yoder
Love	Ros-Lehtinen	Yoho
Lucas	Roskam	Young (AK)
Luetkemeyer	MacArthur	Young (IA)
Marchant	Rothfus	Zeldin
Marino	Rouzer	

NAYS—184

Adams	Demings	Kuster (NH)
Aguilar	DeSaulnier	Langevin
Amash	Deutch	Larsen (WA)
Barragan	Dingell	Larson (CT)
Bass	Doggett	Lawrence
Beatty	Doyle, Michael F.	Lawson (FL)
Bera	Ellison	Lee
Beyer	Engel	Levin
Biggs	Eshoo	Lewis (GA)
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Lieu, Ted
Blunt Rochester	Espallat	Lipinski
Bonamici	Esty (CT)	Loeb
Boyle, Brendan F.	Evans	Loeb
Brady (PA)	Foster	Lowenthal
Brown (MD)	Fudge	Lowey
Brownley (CA)	Gabbard	Lujan Grisham, M.
Bustos	Galleo	Lujan, Ben Ray
Butterfield	Garamendi	Lynch
Capuano	Gohmert	Maloney
Carbajal	Gomez	Maloney, Sean
Cardenas	Gonzalez (TX)	Massie
Carson (IN)	Gosar	Matsui
Cartwright	Green, Al	McCollum
Castor (FL)	Green, Gene	McEachin
Castro (TX)	Grijalva	McGovern
Chu, Judy	Gutierrez	McNerney
Ciçilline	Hanabusa	Meeks
Clark (MA)	Hastings	Meng
Clarke (NY)	Heck	Moulton
Cook	Higgins (NY)	Murphy (FL)
Cleaver	Himes	Nadler
Clyburn	Hoyer	Napolitano
Cohen	Huffman	Neal
Connolly	Jackson Lee	Nolan
Correa	Jayapal	Norcross
Courtney	Jeffries	O'Halleran
Crist	Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke
Crowley	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
Curbelo (FL)	Kaptur	Panetta
Davis (CA)	Keating	Pascarella
Davis, Danny	Kelly (IL)	Payne
DeFazio	Kennedy	Pelosi
DeGette	Khanna	Perlmutter
Delaney	Kihuen	Peters
DeLauro	Kildee	Pingree
DelBene	Kilmer	
	Krishnamoorthi	

Pocan	Schiff	Titus
Polis	Schneider	Tonko
Price (NC)	Schrader	Torres
Quigley	Scott (VA)	Tsongas
Raskin	Serrano	Vargas
Rice (NY)	Sewell (AL)	Veasey
Richmond	Sherman	Vela
Rosen	Sires	Velázquez
Roybal-Allard	Smith (WA)	Visclosky
Ruiz	Soto	Wasserman
Ruppersberger	Speier	Schultz
Rush	Suozzi	Waters, Maxine
Ryan (OH)	Swalwell (CA)	Watson Coleman
Sánchez	Takano	Welch
Sarbanes	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (FL)
Schakowsky	Thompson (MS)	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—11

Bishop (GA)	Moore	Simpson
Buck	Rice (SC)	Tipton
Cummings	Scott, David	Walz
Frankel (FL)	Shea-Porter	

□ 1729

Mr. BROWN of Maryland changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mrs. BLACK changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 6, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the Certificate of Election received from the Honorable Tom Wolf, the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Honorable Robert Torres, the Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth, indicating that, at the Special Election held on March 13, 2018, the Honorable Conor Lamb was duly elected Representative in Congress for the 18th Congressional District, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk.*

Enclosure.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA Governor's Office

I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that at the Special Election held on the thirteenth day of March, 2018, Conor Lamb having received One hundred fourteen thousand one hundred two votes was duly elected to the office of Representative in Congress in the Eighteenth Congressional District of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, this fourth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and forty-second.

TOM WOLF,  
*Governor.*  
ROBERT TORRES,  
*Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

[State Seal Affixed]